



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FORMER MAIL CARRIER ADMITS TO STEALING CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS FROM HER ROUTE

PHOENIX -- Michelle Lynn O'Connor, age 38, of Phoenix, Arizona, pleaded guilty on October 10 to Theft of Mail Matter by a Postal Service Employee, in federal district court, before Judge Earl H. Carroll, in Phoenix.

In the course of her guilty plea, O'Connor admitted she had been a mail carrier and worked out of the Phoenix Post Office's Washington Station for approximately eight years prior to December 1, 2005. During the period of June 29, 2005 through December 1, 2005, O'Connor stole two Bank One Visa credit cards and one Bank of America Visa debit card. During the period of September 11, 2005 through November 5, 2005, O'Connor used one of the stolen Visa credit cards on multiple occasions to buy groceries and related items from three Fry's Grocery Stores in Phoenix. On several occasions, O'Connor drove to the stores in her official Postal Service vehicle and made the purchases while dressed in her letter carrier's uniform. On December 1, 2005, a Postal Inspector sought to interview O'Connor at a Postal facility regarding her conduct at the grocery stores. During the interview, O'Connor was permitted to use the restroom where she hid stolen debit and credit cards in order to avoid their seizure. The cards were later found by fellow Postal Service employees and turned over to the inspector. O'Connor resigned from the Postal Service after these incidents.

A conviction for Theft of Mail Matter by a Postal Service Employee carries a maximum penalty of five years, a \$250,000.00 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, Judge Carroll will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Sentencing is set before Judge Carroll on Monday, January 8, 2007.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the United States Postal Inspection Service. The prosecution is being handled by Frederick A. Battista, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-594-PHX-EHC
RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-209(O'Connor)

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